Simple Setup Guide for Online Lessons

This guide walks you through **how to get connected** for an online *Piano Express* lesson (as a student and a teacher).
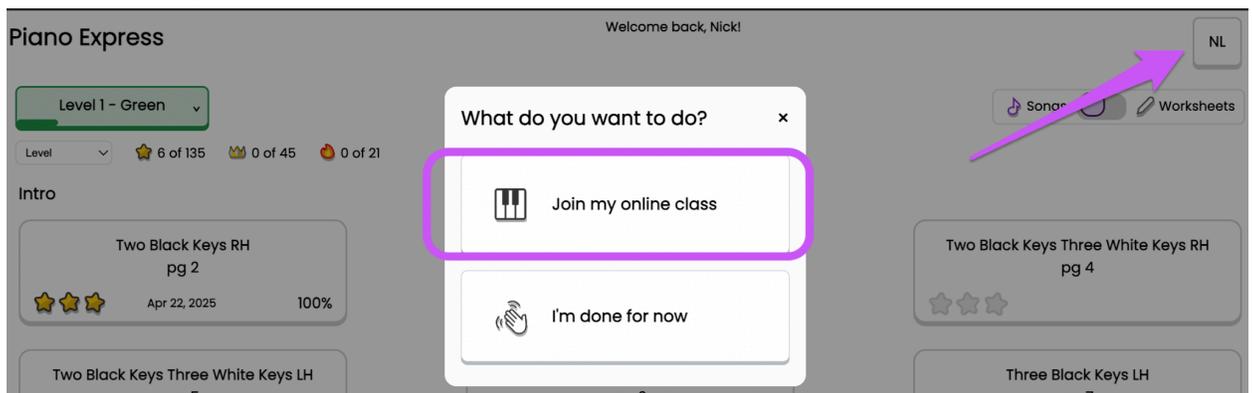
FOR STUDENTS

What You'll Need

- **2 Devices**: A computer/laptop with a Chrome Browser, or iPad (must use iOS app)
  - one for Zoom / web conferencing
  - one for the app
- A piano or keyboard connected to your device (USB or MIDI cable)
- Your Piano Express QR code

Step 1: Log In

1. Go to **play.thepianoexpress.com**
2. Scan your **QR code** (your teacher needs to send this to you) to log in as a **student**

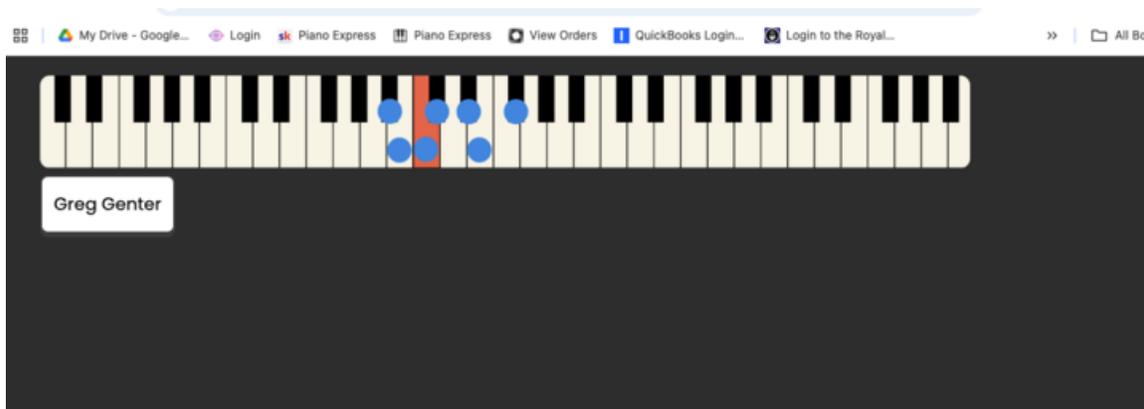## Step 2: Join the Online Class

1. Click your **initials** in the top-right corner
2. Select **"Join My Online Class"**

3. Choose your teacher's room

You should now see:

- A piano keyboard on your screen
- Blue dots lighting up when keys are played

If You're Not Seeing Blue Dots… Check Your Piano Connection.

To make sure your keyboard is connected correctly:

1. Click on any **Song**
2. Tap **any two black keys three times quickly**
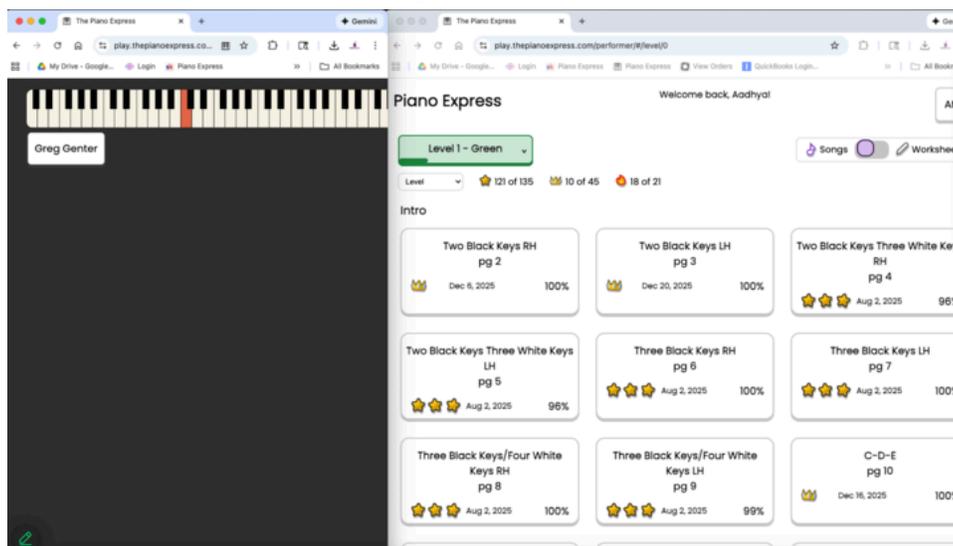   (tap-tap-tap)

If the song starts playing → you're connected ✅
If not → refresh the browser and try again.
If still no connection → troubleshoot using [this guide](#)

Step 4: Open a Second Window

- Repeat **Step 1: Log in** on a separate window.
- Use the second window for the songs and worksheets, as shown below:

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Step 5: During the Lesson

- Keep the keyboard window open to see:
  - Your virtual piano
  - The teacher's virtual piano
- Keep the other window open to see:
  - Your songs
  - Your worksheets
- Follow along as the teacher demonstrates

FOR TEACHERS

What You'll Need

- **2 Devices**: A computer/laptop with a Chrome Browser, or iPad (must use iOS app)
  - one for Zoom / web conferencing
  - one for the app
- A piano or keyboard connected to your device (USB or MIDI cable)
- Your Piano Express teacher login
- Two browser windows open (virtual piano and dashboard)
- Speakers or headphones
- Microphone (with noise filtering turned OFF)

Reminder: Before their first lesson, send a QR code to students (PDF or PNG) and ask them to print it.

1. Log in to your account and select the student.

2. Click their QR Code.

3. Copy as a PNG or "Save Image As" and select PDF. If PNG, paste in an email. If PDF, attach in an email.

Step 1: Log In as a Teacher

1. Go to **play.thepianoexpress.com**
2. Click **"I'm a Teacher"**
3. Log in with your teacher account

Step 2: Start the Online Class

1. Click **"Online Class"** (top-right)

2. Your classroom piano window will open
3. Students will join using **Join My Online Class**

You'll now see:

- Your virtual piano
- All students' virtual pianos with names beneath

Step 3: Recommended Setup (Very Important)
Recommended: You do not NEED two devices, but it's helpful to have. Alternatively, you could use a second monitor.

Also recommended: A second camera for an overhead view with the camera on your hands ([you can use a stand like this](#))

- **First Window** for online Class (virtual pianos)
- **Second Window** for regular *Piano Express* view (songs, worksheets, assessments, NOW feed)
- **Third Window (or Device)** for the Zoom call

Step 4: Teaching with Songs & Worksheets

1. In the second window, go to the NOW tab to access:
   - **Songs** for group playing
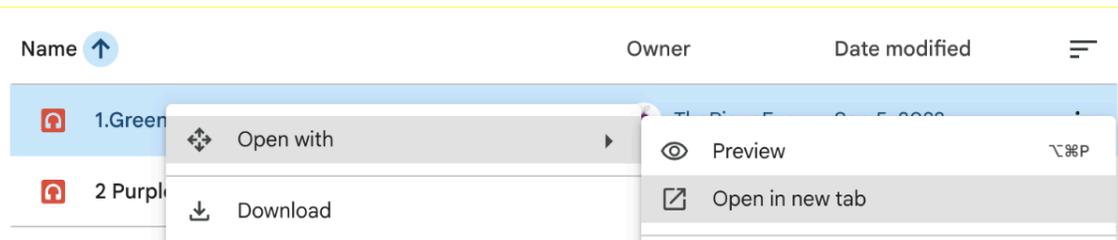   - **Worksheets** for written work

2. Students can:
   - Draw
   - Erase
   - Save their work
3. When they click **Save**, you can see their work

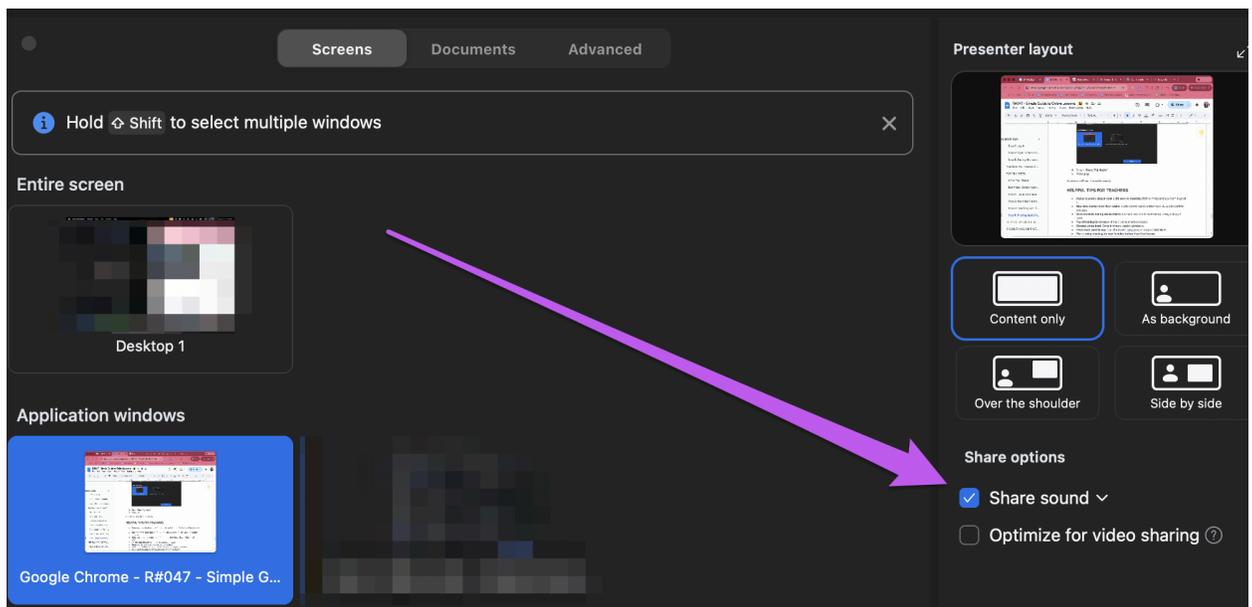This works even while students are actively playing.

Step 5: Playing Audio for Students

To play clean audio (finger drills, tracks, etc.):

1. Open the audio file in a **Chrome tab**

2. Click **Share Screen (in Zoom)**
3. Select **Chrome Tab**
4. Check **"Share Sound"**

5. Press play. Students should hear the audio clearly.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- **Online teachers should send a QR code to students** (PDF or PNG) and ask them to print it.
- **Blue dots matter more than sound.** Audio quality varies online—use visuals to confirm accuracy.
- **Mute students during assessments.** Unmute one at a time while watching activity in NOW.
- **Try refreshing the browser** if there are connection issues.
- **Chrome works best.** Other browsers can be unreliable.
- **iPads must use the app** (not a browser). Device must support **iOS 18.4+**.
- **Plan a setup meeting for new families before their first lesson.**
- **Students should log in 10–15 minutes early** for their first online lesson.
- **Two tabs = smoother lessons.** One for playing, one for monitoring and teaching.

- **For book distribution:** we recommend that families buy their own books from pianoexpress.shop.

IF SOMETHING ISN'T WORKING

1. Refresh the browser.
2. Close the tab and reopen it.
3. Make sure:
   - Keyboard is powered on
   - Chrome or iOS device is powered on
   - Cable is fully plugged in
4. Try again.

If needed, email the tech team directly at support@grouplessons.com.